

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY AFR/ESA:OCYLKE:NMB

APPROVED BY AF:DBBOLEN - -

EB/ODF:JBLANEY (INFO)

AF/EPS:RDUNCAN

AF/S:RPERRY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MBABANE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONEPRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 229734

NAIROBI FOR REDSO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, BC, ETRN

SUBJECT: BOTSWANA - TRANSPORT RECONNAISSANCE

1. IN HIS APRIL 16, 1976 LUSAKA SPEECH, THE SECRETARY PROPOSED THAT WORLD BANK UNDERTAKE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONSULTATIVE GROUP FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

2. PURSUANT TO THAT INITIATIVE, AFR HAS ENGAGED CONSULTANT TO ASSIST IN A TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS RECONNAISSANCE OF THE REGION. AS PART OF THAT EFFORT, AFR PROPOSES PENELOPE THUNBURG AND JERRY EPSTEIN OF CHECCI AND COMPANY UNDERTAKE FIELD RECONNAISSANCE BOTSWANA SEPTEMBER 30 TO OCTOBER 20 (APPROXIMATE).

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3. TEAM WOULD PROPOSE EXAMINE MARKETING PATTERNS, COMMOD-

ITY FLOWS, TRAFFIC LEVELS, PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT TRANSPORT SECTOR. FYI ALTHOUGH RECONNAISSANCE DIRECTED LONGER TERM DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS, TEAM WILL ATTEMPT QUANTIFY IMPACT OF TRANSPORT DISRUPTION ON BOTSWANA ENTERPRISE/COMMERCE, GOVERNMENT BUDGET, COUNTRY BALANCE/PAYMENTS AND LIFE SYSTEMS. TEAM ALSO WILL BE REQUESTED SUGGEST POSSIBLE GOB/DONOR RESPONSES TO

DISLOCATIONS OCCASIONED BY POSSIBLE LOSS OF RHODESIAN RAIL LINK. BELIEVE IT BEST THIS ASPECT OF RECONNAISSANCE NOT BE HIGHLIGHTED IN DISCUSSIONS GOB SINCE IT COULD BOTH BE MISINTERPRETED IN TERMS U.S. POSTURE VIS-A-VIS THAT ISSUE AND COULD RAISE EXPECTATIONS BEYOND U.S. CAPACITY TO RESPOND. END FYI.

4. JERRY EPSTEIN WILL HAVE CONTINUING ASSOCIATION AFR SOUTHERN AFRICA PLANNING GROUP AS RESEARCH ECONOMIST FOR BOTSWANA.

5. BIO-DATE FOLLOWS:

A. DR. PENELOPE HARTLAND-THUNBURG IS PRESENTLY DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH AT THE CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND ADJUNCT PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY AND HAS BROAD EXPERIENCE BOTH IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT. DR. THUNBURG HAS SERVED AS A MEMBER OF THE U.S. TARRIF COMMISSION AS WELL AS A SENIOR ECONOMIST WITH THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS.

B. MR. EPSTEIN HAS ADVANCED DEGREES IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND ECONOMICS FROM PRINCETON AND HAS WORKED IN THE FIELDS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND FINANCE, AND ECONOMICS DEVELOPMENT WITH SUCH INSTITUTIONS AS THE WORLD BANK, BROOKINGS INSTITUTE AND PRINCETON UNIVERSITY.

6. REQUEST ADVISE CONCURRENCE AND AVAILABILITY ACCOMMODATION SOONEST.

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